

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION SS-25

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R 311108Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6815
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T AMMAN 0526

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JO, IS
SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER -- BORDER FENCE

1. ON JANUARY 28, RIFAI BROUGHT ME UP TO DATE ON WADI ARABA BORDER FENCE PROBLEM.
2. HE SAID THAT ISRAELIS HAVE CONTINUED TO MOVE FENCE, ALTHOUGH AS REPORTED EARLIER, THEY ARE NOT MOVING IT COMPLETELY BACK TO THE ACTUAL BORDER OR DEMARCATION LINE. IN GENERAL, HE SAID, FENCE IS ABOUT 500 METERS WEST OF THE ROAD ALIGNMENT, BUT STILL ON JORDANIAN TERRITORY.
3. HE ADDED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS WITH LAND MINES. ISRAELIS ARE MOVING FENCE, BUT NOT CLEARING THE MINES. SEVERAL DAYS AGO TWO JORDANIAN SURVEYORS WERE KILLED WHEN THEY STEPPED ON A MINE (ANOTHER REPORT SAYS THEIR VEHICLE HIT A MINE). IN ADDITION, RIFAI SAID SIX OTHERS WERE INJURED EARLIER IN A SIMILAR LAND MINE INCIDENT. I ASKED HOW ISRAELIS MANAGED TO MOVE THE FENCE WITHOUT HITTING THE MINES, AND RIFAI SAID HE ASSUMES THEY HAVE MAPS TO SHOW THEM WHERE THE MINES ARE. HE DID NOT SEEM TO BE UNDULY UPSET BY THE ISRAELIS NOT MOVING THE MINES, EXPLAINING THAT JORDAN ARMY ENGINEERS WERE DOING THE JOB AND THAT THE INCIDENTS HAD OCCURRED WHEN OVERZEALOUS SURVEY PARTIES FOR THE

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ROAD GOT OUT AHEAD OF THE MINE CLEARANCE PERSONNEL.

4. HE ADDED THAT CHINESE (NATIONALIST) ENGINEERS HAVE
TALKED WITH THE ISRAELI MILITARY OFFICERS AT THE BORDER
FENCE FROM TIME TO TIME INSURING THAT FENCE GETS
MOVED COMPLETELY OUT OF THE WAY OF ROAD.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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